

*Washington, DC* - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), who is the founder and chairman of the congressional Future of American Media Caucus, today released the following statement regarding President-elect Obama's reported selection of Julius Genachowski as the next chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

"The reported selection of Julius Genachowski as the next chairman of the FCC represents the dawning of a new day for an agency that for the past eight years has wrongly imposed policies that favor media consolidation and corporate favoritism over policies that would broaden media diversity. I am confident that Mr. Genachowski will breathe new life into the FCC and help reverse the ill effects of media consolidation that the Bush administration has forced upon the American people.

"Through his choice of Julius Genachowski, President-elect Obama has demonstrated that he recognizes the FCC is a critical agency that must return to implementing policies that ensure the American people have access to a broad array of ideas and content. The American people will be much better served by an FCC that will expand the diversity of media ownership and expand what has increasingly become a narrowed range of ideas and content broadcast over the publicly-owned airwaves.

"In the ever-changing world of media technology, the United States needs an FCC that can establish and administer policies that are fair and ensure that every American has access to as many different sources of media as possible. A well-informed public that can hold its government accountable is critical to our nation's ability to thrive as a democracy. I'm confident that President-elect Obama's choice for the next FCC commissioner will help our country achieve that goal."